

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6403**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1321

**NOTE PREPARED:** Nov 26, 2002

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Covenant Marriage.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Kruse

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☐ **DEDICATED**  
☐ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

STATE IMPACT	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		18,095	7,095
Net Increase (Decrease)		(18,095)	(7,095)

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill defines "covenant marriage". It provides that a couple may designate a covenant marriage when applying for a marriage license or after marriage. It also requires that a marriage license must indicate whether the marriage is a covenant marriage. It further establishes the procedure for declaring a covenant marriage. The bill requires the State Department of Health to maintain records of covenant marriage declarations. The bill provides limited grounds for legal separation or dissolution of a covenant marriage. It also requires the State Department of Health to develop an informational pamphlet regarding covenant marriage.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The State Department of Health (SDOH) has identified some minimal costs to develop a new form for circuit courts to use to implement the new classification of covenant marriage and in creating the pamphlet providing information on covenant marriage required by the bill. Both of these costs can be absorbed within the existing SDOH budget. The Department also estimates that this bill would require approximately \$18,095 to implement in the first year: \$11,000 for one-time systems revisions

and \$7,095 for the first year and each year thereafter for additional printing and postage expenditures.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The county circuit court clerks may incur some additional expenses related to filing covenant marriage designations for existing marriages.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State Department of Health.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Circuit Courts; Circuit Court Clerks.

**Information Sources:** Zach Cattell, Legislative Liaison, State Department of Health, (317) 233-2170.

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